S. No.	Name of States/UTs	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil*
17.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	2
19.	Punjab	9	4	4*
20.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	NA
21.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	14
23.	Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil*
24.	Uttar Pradesh	50	2	2*
25.	West Bengal	15	12	12*
26.	Pondicherry	Nil	NA	Nil
27.	A & N Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil
29.	Delhi	2	16	8
30.	D & N Haveli	Nil	Nil	NA*
31.	Daman & Diu	—	Nil	Nil
32.	Lakshadweep	—	Nil	Nil*
	Total	157	94	93

NA —Information not available.

*Information as on 31.3.99

Consultation fee by private doctors

806. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the situation arising out of charging consultation fee by the private doctors Fleecing the patients more than the prescribed rates in Delhi;

(b) whether Government have taken up this issue with the Medical Council of India for regulation of their fee, according to the doctor's qualifications;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) The Central Government have not fixed the fee chargeable by the private doctors. However, as per the Code of Medical Ethics prescribed for the doctors, a physician should announce his fee to the patients before rendering services and not after operation or treatment is under way.

Purchase of machines in different hospitals in Delhi

†807. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of machines bought separately for different hospitals in Delhi for conducting various types of tests during the last five years;

(b) the number of machines out of the said machines lying out of order as on October 31, 2001 and since when;

(c) the total amount spent on maintenance and repairs of various types of machines during the last five years; and

(d) by when Government will get these machines repaired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVLOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Strong public health system in the country

808. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the opinion that stronger public health system is the only answer to bio-terrorism; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken for strong public health system in the country?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.